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URBAN DISTRICT OF BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1957.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

URBAN DISTRICT OF BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH

Committee: June 1957 - May 1958

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor J.R. Booth

Members:

Councillor O.T. Bowton
" C.E. Jefferies
" T. Rice
" T. Young

The Chairman of the Council:
Councillor Mrs. H.D. Robinson, J.P. (ex officio)

Meeting: Monday of the week preceding the date of the Council Meeting (held on the last Tuesday in each month) at 7 p.m.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

T.D. Blott, B.Sc., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

K.C. McCutcheon, A.R.San.I., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk:

Mrs. E.M. Rezelman.

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fourth Annual Report upon the health of your Urban District.

The crude birth rate for 1957 was 15.5 per thousand of the population. The corrected rate was 18.3 per thousand. This compares with the birth rate for England & Wales for 1957 of 16.1 per thousand. The corresponding figures for 1956 were 13.0 and 15.5 respectively.

The crude death rate for 1957 was 12.9 per thousand of the population. The corrected rate was 10.1 per thousand. This compares with the death rate for England & Wales for 1957 of 11.5 per thousand. The corresponding figures for 1956 were 12.2 and 9.6 respectively.

There was one death of an infant under one year of age.

The high figure for infectious diseases as compared with last year (that is 134 compared with 6) was almost entirely due to an epidemic of measles and whooping cough which together accounted for 125 notifications. It is indeed surprising that there were so many cases of whooping cough in view of the facilities offered for immunisation against this disease, and it is to be hoped that the mothers of young children will take the obvious step of having their children immunised before the next epidemic occurs.

During the year the County Council's programme of immunisation against poliomyelitis has continued actively in the Burnham area. Both local doctors and County Council staff carry out this work and once again I have great pleasure in recording that there has been no case of poliomyelitis in the area during the year.

Your Public Health Inspector, Mr. McCutcheon, has been very active persuading and advising people of the importance of carrying out the Food Hygiene Regulations now in force, and there can I think be little doubt that the food standards in Burnham are now better than ever before.

I would like to thank Members of the Council for the support I have received from them during the year.

I have the honour to be, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T.D. Blott,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area	5,525 acres
Population - Registrar General's estimate for mid-year	3,860
Ratable value at 1st April 1957...	£38,475
Product of a penny rate at 1st April 1957	£152

VITAL STATISTICS

		M.	F.		
Live Births	Total	32	28	(Birth rate per thousand of estimated resident population	15.5
	Legitimate	31	24		
	Illegitimate	1	4		
Still Births	Total (Legitimate)	1	-		
Deaths		35	15	(Crude death rate per thousand of estimated resident population	12.9

This takes into account 24 Inward and 3 Outward Transferable Deaths.

There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis or other puerperal causes.

One death was in respect of an infant under one year of age.

There were 9 deaths from cancer (all ages) but none from measles, whooping cough or diarrhoea (under 2 years).

Tabular statement of deaths classified according to ages:-

Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1	1
5 and under 25	2
25 " " 35	-
35 " " 45	-
45 " " 55	1
55 " " 65	8
65 " " 75	9
75 and over	29

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

Acute Pneumonia	- 5	Measles	- 74
Erysipelas	- 2	Whooping Cough	- 51
Infective Hepatitis	- 2		

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY

The following cases of Tuberculosis were notified:-

Pulmonary	-	2
Other	-	1

There were no deaths from this disease.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	1	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	2	7
Coronary disease, angina	6	6	12
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
Other heart disease	1	-	1
Other circulatory disease	3	2	5
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill defined diseases	6	1	7
Motor Vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	35	15	50

To the Chairman and Members of the
Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report on the work carried out by the Public Health and Housing Department for 1957.

In addition to the normal environmental health work the Department is also responsible for the management and maintenance of 239 Council houses. The administration and supervision of the maintenance and repair to these properties accounted for more time than in the previous year and I feel that this work is likely to increase further next year.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Members of the Council for the interest taken in the work of the Department and for their support and co-operation at all times.

I have the honour to be, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

K.C. McCutcheon,

Public Health Inspector.

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GENERAL SANITATION

During the year 2591 visits were made to the various types of premises; details of the visits are given in the following summary:-

Housing	
Inspections	39
Re-visits re Notices served	176
Rent Act visits etc.	26
Housing enquiries	20
Factories and Workplaces	72
Food Hygiene	
Shops - Meat	40
- Fish	5
- General Provisions	50
Slaughterhouses	118
Dairies	1
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens, Cafes, etc.	40
Proposed food premises	16
Ice Cream premises	48
Sampling - Ice Cream	12
- Milk	13
- Water	8
General Sanitation	
Visits on complaint	
Council houses	309
Others	39
Re-visits re Notices served	12
Re-visits other than above	24
Council house other visits	307
Movable Dwellings	40
Shops Acts	57
Rodent Control	367
Infectious Diseases	68
Supervision of contract work	378
Houseboats	69
Schools	1
Hairdressers	3
Piggeries	9
Water Supply	16
Drainage	154
Petroleum Acts	11
Refuse collection and disposal	19
Miscellaneous visits	24
	2591

Water Supplies

During the year 16 samples of water were taken and submitted for examination, 6 of these being from the Council's Waterworks.

The results of the samples from the Council's Waterworks indicated that the water was wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

8 samples were taken from well supplies. 2 of these samples were found to be suspicious and 1 unsatisfactory (these samples were from the same well). Advice was given regarding chlorination of the supply and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

Two samples were taken from the main supply of a Council house and were submitted for a special examination in connection with problems of corrosion. Information regarding this is given under the heading "Council House Management and Maintenance".

Again this year several complaints were received concerning the presence of Chironomus larvae in the town supply, these larvae being present in water drawn from the main supply in various parts of the town. The Chironomus is a small midge which occurs in enormous numbers in the neighbourhood of water. The eggs are deposited in water and are quite transparent. The larvae are red and commonly known as bloodworms. Further precautions were taken by the Water Engineer to make the entry of this midge into the sedimentation tanks and storage reservoirs impossible.

Factories

The following table shows the number of registered factories within the District and details of the inspections made and action taken.

Inspections	Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections
(1)	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	6
(2)	Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	53
(3)	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	9	13
	Total	48	72

Factories (Contd.)

Cases in which Defects were found

	Found	Remedied
Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1

Outworkers	Nature of Work	No.
	Wearing Apparel	1

Houseboats and Jetties

Under the Essex County Council Act 1952 the consent of the Local Authority is required for the mooring of houseboats and the placing of jetties thereto within the District. At the end of the year the number of houseboats for which consent had been given was 17, 12 of these being provided with jetties.

The 4 derelict hulks referred to in my report for 1956 were not demolished during the year. One Contractor who undertook to carry out the demolition had made no start by the end of the year but I hope next year that I shall be able to report that these hulks have been removed.

Movable Dwellings and Camping Sites

The number of caravan and camping sites in the District remain at 3 which includes that owned and operated by the Council. The sites are in use from April until October only. Each of the sites is provided with main water and sanitary accommodation.

The demand for caravan and camping sites increased considerably during the year and the capacity of the Council site is to be increased to 50 caravans. This increase in number will mean that more amenities will be required and next year additional sanitary accommodation, washing facilities and water supply points will be provided.

Improvements in sanitary accommodation and water supply were carried out at one of the privately owned sites.

One licence was granted to a person to erect, station and use a movable dwelling in the District.

40 visits were made to ensure the maintenance of sanitary conditions.

Rodent Control

The following table gives details of the inspections made of various premises under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority (1)	Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses) (2)	All Other (including Business Premises) (3)	Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3) (4)	Agricultural (5)
1. No. of properties in Local Authority's District	4	1398	228	1630	27
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification	-	22	1	23	-
(b) Survey under the Act	4	24	19	47	7
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose).	-	196	76	272	18

The total number of properties inspected was 367, 23 as a result of notification.

A total of 27 minor infestations of rats and 3 of mice were found, and treatment of these was carried out with Warfarin. The Council's Sewage Works and Refuse Tip were treated on 6 occasions.

The location and type of the Refuse Tip does not make it easy to control infestation as such a large area of the Tip face is open and this offers to rodents a variety of foodstuffs. Fortunately there has not been any major infestation as to deal with this might have proved more difficult.

No sewer treatment was carried out during the year as the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food considered that, as a result of the test baiting carried out last year, the next test baiting should not be made until 1958.

Shops

During the year 57 inspections were made under the delegated powers of the Shops Act 1950.

HOUSING

Further progress was made in securing the demolition of properties included in Clearance Areas and others subject to Demolition Orders.

In all 16 houses were demolished and 14 families, comprising 36 persons, were displaced.

The Rent Act 1957 and the Rent Restrictions Regulations 1957 did not bring the number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair that was anticipated. It appears that although a fairly large number of G forms were served on landlords by tenants, most landlords gave undertakings to carry out the necessary repairs. It is possible that considerable difficulty will be experienced by landlords in securing the execution of the repairs within the six months period prescribed by the undertakings. This difficulty will arise because of the number of undertakings given and in finding local building contractors who are able to carry out repairs within the time limit.

The Council decided that it would be advantageous to set up a Sub-Committee to deal with applications for Certificates of Disrepair and this procedure has worked very well.

6 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received and it was decided to issue Certificates. Undertakings were given by the landlords in each case and these undertakings were accepted by the Council.

6 applications for the revocation of Certificates of Disrepair were received from landlords and 4 of the Certificates were cancelled, the repairs having been executed. Objections were received from the tenants in respect of two of the applications and the Council did not cancel the Certificates on these properties.

Statistics for the year 1957

Number of houses erected during year:-

(i)	by the Local Authority	18
(ii)	by Private Enterprise	13
		31

The following table summarises the progress made during the year in dealing with houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses:-

Houses Demolished	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year Persons	Displaced during year Families
Houses in Clearance Areas	11	25	12
Houses not in Clearance Areas	5	11	2

Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied	By Owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by Local Authority	30	-
After formal notice		
(a) Public Health Act	-	-
(b) Housing Act 1957	1	-

Statutory Notices

The following Notices were served during the year:-

Housing Act 1957, Section 9	11
Public Health Act 1936	1
Food & Drugs Act 1955	2

Statutory Notices complied with

Housing Act 1957	1
Food & Drugs Act 1955	2

Informal Notices served under the Housing, Public Health, Food & Drugs, Factories, Prevention of Damage by Pests and other Acts

Notices served	38
Complied with	33

Petroleum Regulations

During the year ten licences were granted under the Petroleum Acts and Regulations to the occupiers of premises for the storage of petroleum spirit.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Progress was made during the year in obtaining improvements to food premises. Three cases of food being sold which was not of the nature or not of the substance, or not of the quality demanded by the purchaser, were referred to the Council. In each case it was decided not to institute proceedings but a severe warning was given to the retailers concerned and Notices were served requiring that the premises concerned be made to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations. These Notices were complied with during the year.

Other improvements to premises were carried out without the necessity of statutory action being taken.

In the report for 1956 I mentioned how the public can assist in raising the standard of food hygiene. Again I must stress this point. If the public would co-operate more with the authority and report any unhygienic practices which they observe or draw the attention of the persons concerned to the unhygienic practices, I feel that conditions would improve more rapidly. The persons engaged in food handling are not the only culprits, however, as the shopping public are by no means perfect. The Food Hygiene Regulations prohibit, amongst other things, the use of tobacco by persons engaged in food handling while handling open food or when in any food room where there is open food. Unfortunately this does not apply to the shoppers and only too often one sees customers smoking when leaning over display counters. Many shopkeepers do not like drawing the attention of the shoppers to this practice for fear of losing their custom. Until all sections of the public become more food hygiene conscious the improvements that are desired will take longer to materialise.

The following types of food business are carried on in the district at 61 premises:-

Ice Cream	23	Milk Distributors	7
Grocery Provisions, Bread, Confectionery etc.	28	Dairies	1
Greengrocery and Fruit	6		
Wet Fish	4	Bakehouses	3
Fried Fish	2		
Hotels, Restaurants, Cafes, Clubs and Licensed Premises	21	Butchers	4
		Slaughterhouses	1

Registered Premises
Food & Drugs Act 1955, Section 16

There are in the District 27 premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955, 23 of these being in respect of ice cream premises and 4 for the purpose of the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

The registration of the manufacturers or vendors of ice cream is also secured by Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act 1933 and the number of persons registered is 23.

During the year a total of 48 inspections were made of these premises. No manufacture of ice cream is carried out in the District, pre-packed ice cream only being sold.

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders

There are in the District 7 registered distributors of milk and 1 registered dairy. The following licences were issued during the year:-

Dealers Licences authorising the use of special designations

Tuberculin Tested	-	3
Sterilised	-	4
Pasteurised	-	4

Supplementary Licences

Tuberculin Tested	-	1
Sterilised	-	1
Pasteurised	-	1

Sampling

Milk

Type of Sample	No. Examined	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	6	5	1
Pasteurised	8	8	-
Tuberculin Tested Raw	5	5	-

Sampling (Contd.)

Ice Cream

Ten samples of ice cream were submitted for examination and the results are set out below.

No.	Type of Sample	Grade I	II	III	IV
10	Pre-packed	7	2	1	-

Two samples of water ices were submitted for examination and these proved to be satisfactory.

Registration of Food Hawkers

This is secured by Section 103 of the Essex County Council Act 1952 and the number of persons so registered was 4.

Meat Inspection

Meat inspection was carried out during the year at the one private slaughterhouse in the District. The number of visits made for this purpose was 118 of which 19 were outside normal working hours.

The following table gives details of the number of animals slaughtered and inspected and of condemnations.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	54	19	52	102	500	-
Number inspected	54	19	52	102	500	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	-	2	1	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	6	1	26	73	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	20.4	42.1	3.8	25.5	14.6	-

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part (Contd.)

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	2	-	-	25	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.8	10.5	-	-	5.0	-
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The weight of meat and offal rejected as diseased or unfit was 1,668 lbs.

Reciprocal arrangements operated with the Borough of Maldon and Maldon Rural District Council for meat inspection during periods of annual leave etc.

Inspection of Other Foods

The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered and disposed of.

Tinned Foods	No. of Tins	Weight
Fruit	13	42 lbs. 8 oz.
Vegetables	7	16 lbs. 8 oz.
Meat	4	8 lbs. 4 oz.

Other Foods	
Beef	781 lbs.

Condemned food is disposed of either by incineration, burying, or disposed of for animal products.

Slaughtermen

Three persons were licensed as slaughtermen under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 to 1954.

COUNCIL HOUSE MANAGEMENT

The number of houses now controlled by the Department is 239. The works required in the repair and maintenance of these houses are carried out by three local firms of contractors. The question of the use of direct labour, with particular reference to external painting, was studied but it was decided by the Council that the present system was adequate.

Complaints were received from a number of tenants in connection with smoking fireplaces. It was found that a particular type of back boiler was involved and an investigation was made to determine the cause of the trouble. A Technical Adviser of the Manufacturers was called in to make an examination of the installations. As a result of the investigations two flues were reconstructed and no further trouble was experienced. Next year the necessary alterations to the other properties involved will be continued.

"Rusty water" was a complaint frequently received. This rusty water was apparent in the hot water systems of certain houses when the water was heated too rapidly. Samples of the water from the rising main and the hot water system were submitted for a special examination and the results showed that the condition of the water suggested that it was liable to have a corrosive effect on iron. A form of treatment with hydrated lime is to be carried out as an experiment next year.

The corrosive effect of the water on iron is apparent by the number of cast iron flushing cisterns which it was found necessary to renew. Plastic type cisterns are now being installed and so far these have proved very satisfactory.

39 properties were painted externally during the year and the final part of the Pointing Contract of the 1919 houses was completed.

The following tables show the various defects and items of disrepair which were the subject of complaint or were discovered as a result of inspections made and in connection with which instructions were given for the execution of the necessary repairs.

Exterior		
Rainwater guttering and downpipes repaired or renewed	22	
Doors and windows eased	18	
Doors and windows weatherproofed	7	
Window fasteners, stays and hinges repaired	5	
Broken glass renewed	11	
Roofs repaired	21	
Flues and chimney stacks repaired	5	
Chimney pots renewed or fitted	3	
Dampness remedied	3	
Gates and fences repaired	7	
External walls repointed or repaired	6	
Dustbins renewed	18	
Miscellaneous	2	128
Drainage		
Gullies repaired	5	
Drains repaired	1	
Blocked drains cleared	3	9
Interior		
Broken locks or lock furniture repaired or renewed	2	
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	6	
Redecorations (new tenancies)	2	
Kitchen ranges - miscellaneous repairs	1	
Rayburn Cookers - firebricks fitted to	20	
- new bottom grates	4	
- miscellaneous repairs	5	
Open fires - tiled surrounds repaired	10	
- firebricks repaired or renewed	7	
- new stools supplied	16	
- miscellaneous repairs	2	
Gas Cookers	6	
Floors repaired	1	
Faulty electrical fittings repaired or renewed	32	
Miscellaneous woodwork repairs	4	
Ventilation louvres repaired or renewed	6	
Back Boilers repaired or renewed	7	
Flues reconstructed	2	133
Water Supplies		
Ball valves repaired to - water waste preventers	13	
- storage tanks	12	
Taps repaired or renewed	12	
Perished tap washers renewed	5	
Hot water storage tanks repaired or renewed	7	
Hot water tanks repaired or renewed	12	
Hot water supply piping repaired or renewed	10	
Cold water supply piping repaired or renewed	5	76
Carried forward		346

Brought forward		346
Sanitary Facilities		
Draining boards repaired or renewed	16	
Waste pipes repaired or unstopped	9	
W.C. pans renewed	5	
W.C. seats repaired or renewed	2	
Leaking W.C. cone and other joints repaired or renewed	7	
Plinths formed to rear edge of sinks	2	
Water waste preventers repaired or renewed	33	
Miscellaneous	6	80
		420

APPENDIX I

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS OBTAINED DURING THE YEAR AS A RESULT OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL ACTION

Roofs repaired	5
Rainwater gutters and downpipes repaired or renewed	3
Walls repaired	2
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	17
External brickwork repaired or repointed	10
Floors repaired	4
Woodwork of windows and doors repaired	11
Sashcords, glazing and putties repaired or renewed	8
Stone cills repaired or renewed	1
Stoves and fire grates repaired or renewed	2
Flues and chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	1
Offensive accumulations removed	3
Dampness remedied	10
Verminous premises disinfested	2
Rodent infestations abated	36
Drainage	
Drain Tests - new drains	11
Drains - cleansed	14
- repaired	2
- constructed or reconstructed	7
- additional gullies provided	2
- new inspection chambers constructed	2
Cesspools - repaired	1
- new ones constructed	1
Sinks provided or replaced	6
Sink waste pipes trapped or renewed	3
Sewers cleansed	3
Water Closets	
Additional provided and new ones constructed	9
Water Supply	
Sufficient water supply provided	4
Food premises - repairs and improvements	18
	198